



# RF NEWS

July 2018

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## Baton Rouge Amateur Radio Club

PO Box 4004, Baton Rouge, LA 70821

Web: [www.brarc.org](http://www.brarc.org)

Email: [brarc@brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org)

<b>President</b>	Robin Hudson, KK5RH
<b>Vice President</b>	Todd Huovinen, AB5TH
<b>Secretary</b>	Brett Hebert, KG5IQU
<b>Treasurer</b>	Tom Harrell, KE5LVQ
<b>Directors</b>	Brook Samuel, N5DGK Dave Thomas, K5CGX Ken Shutt, W5KQ Thornton Cofield, K5HLC Jerry Clouatre, AG5AY Jennifer Bordelon, K5NMT Bill Smith, KE5TA
<b>Repeaters:</b>	146.790 - and 444.400 + (PL tone 107.2) Both Yaesu System Fusion
<b>Nets:</b>	Region 2 ARES Net Sundays 8:00 PM 146.790 (PL tone 107.2)  BRARC Club Net Sundays 8:30 PM 146.790 (PL tone 107.2)  10 Meter Net Mondays 7:30 PM 28.450 MHz USB



## UPCOMING EVENTS

mark your calendars

**July 31 (Tues) VE Licensing Exam 5:45 PM**

Main Library Goodwood Branch

<http://brarc.org/education/license-exams/>

**July 31 (Tues) BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM**

Main Library Goodwood Branch

*Topic: TBA*

**Aug 7 (Tues) BRARC Board Meeting**

6:30 PM Bluebonnet Library

**Aug 10 (Fri)** Deadline to submit articles for the newsletter

**Aug 28 (Tues) BRARC Meeting 7:00 PM**

Main Library Goodwood Branch

*Topic: TBA*

## Hamfest Calendar

**August 10 -11**

Shreveport Hamfest

LA State Fairgrounds Ag Building

Shreveport, LA

<http://shreveporthamfest.k5sar.com/index.html>

**November 10**

Greater New Orleans Hamfest

Harahan Lions Club Building

Harahan, LA

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/2044282109131267/>



## ARRL Contest Dates

**August 4-5**

222 MHz and Up Distance Contest

**August 18-19**

10 GHz and Up – Round 1

**August 19**

Rookie Roundup - RTTY

**Contest Corral Calendar**

[August Contest Calendar Link](#)

**August 4-5**

North American QSO Party – CW

**August 18-19**

North American QSO Party – SSB



## Weekly

Wednesdays at 7:30 AM  
The Warehouse Restaurant  
12328 South Choctaw, Baton Rouge  
Between Flannery and Sherwood Forrest

Fridays at 7:30 AM  
Frank's on Airline Hwy, Baton Rouge

Saturdays at 6:30 AM  
**Now Two Locations**

James Grill & Cafe  
205 Florida Ave, Denham Springs  
and  
The Warehouse Restaurant, Baton Rouge

### BRARC Elmers

Buddy Brown, N5BUD  
[buddybrown@cox.net](mailto:buddybrown@cox.net)  
Keith Davis, KE5LVT  
[ke5lvt@gmail.com](mailto:ke5lvt@gmail.com)

If you need assistance, please contact one of the above. If you would like to be an Elmer, please contact a Board Member or email the Club at [brarc @ brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org).

## USS Kidd



11 Nov Veterans Day  
7 Dec Pearl Harbor Day

Times and dates may vary, and will be included in RF News. Operating times on the weekend are usually 10 AM – 3:30 PM. Sign-up sheets will be available before the club meetings.

Contact Dave Thomas, K5CGX  
225.572.7836

- ✓ If you would like to schedule another date/time to operate the USS Kidd station, please contact the BRARC Board at [brarc @ brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org)

## W5KID Operating Schedule

## Field Day 2018



### The College Crew

Trey KF5ZLC, Jacob W5YUM,  
Corey N4CTM,  
Michael KG5YZM,  
Bri K5BRI and Dana AD5VC



Buddy N5BUD at the Public Information Table



Vernon AA5O



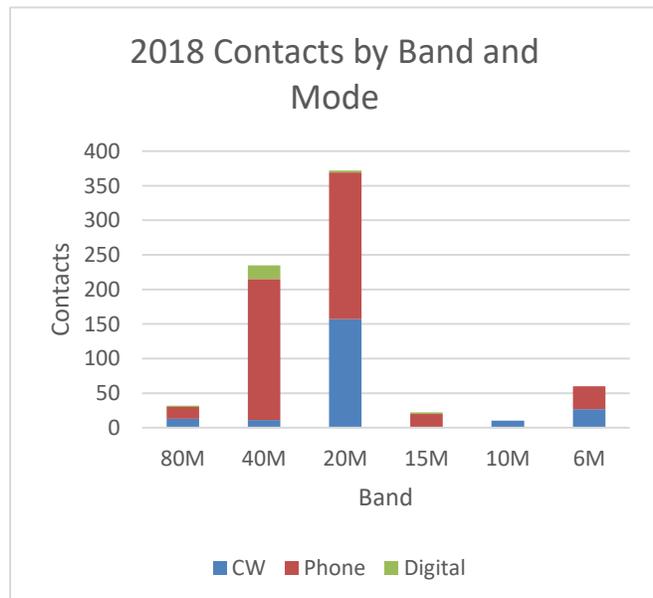
Todd AB5TH, Chad KG5AYJ,  
and Owen KG5JTA

## Summary of Field Day 2018

As usual, the Baton Rouge ARC operated as W5GIX from the Highland Road Park Observatory. We used the tri-bander supplied by Jeremy, AD5XY, a dipole each for 40m and 80m, a vertical configured for 20m, and a dual-band 40/80m fan dipole. We had about the same number of participants as last year. I counted 20 different operators in the log, at least 5 others not in the log but operating, and 4 members of the public participated at the GOTA station. We think this low turnout was due in large part to the bad weather forecast for the weekend that kept the public away from the Saturday night observing session. Our setup on Saturday morning went smoothly despite the very muggy conditions. We set up one station primarily for CW, one for SSB, and a third for FT8 and SSB. We had a GOTA station, and a station for 6m as well. We used a HSMM network and N3JFP's Field Day software for logging, and it worked without a problem.

Our log had 217 CW QSOs, 209 SSB, and 27 FT8 contacts on the 3 HF stations. Six meters opened up for several hours on Sunday, like it did last year, providing 33 SSB and 29 CW contacts. The GOTA station, which operated under the K5LSU call, got 277 phone contacts – more than the 3 HF stations – and 1 CW contact. This effort on GOTA was primarily due to 5 recently licensed hams, Corey, N4CTM, Brianna, K5BRI, Jacob, W5YUM, Michael, KG5YZM, and John, KG5YZJ, all members of the Amateur Radio Society at LSU. Corey and Jacob built the dual band fan dipole that we used. Trey, KF5ZCL and Daniel, N5KHM, also assisted with the GOTA effort.

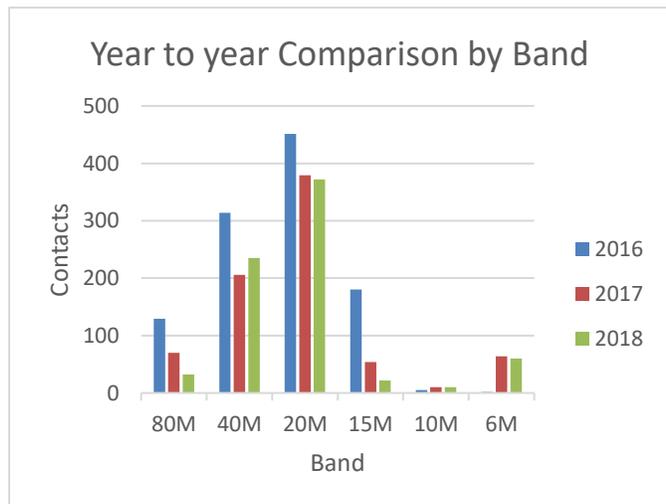
Our efforts netted all but 5 ARRL sections, and seven of the 12 Canadian sections. With the substantial effort for the GOTA station, SSB contacts were double the number of CW contacts, which is a change from years past. The CW and SSB numbers are down by 40% over the previous year. Once again, Lee, W5ZDW, put in a long stint overnight on CW and Vern AA5O also worked CW. N5BRI got her first CW contact with a bit of hand-holding. For phone, the log shows the control ops were Jen K5NMT, Steve KC5SAS, Mike KD5MLD, Brett KG5IQU, Chad KG5AYJ, Trey KF5ZCL, Elmer N5EKF, and Daniel N5KHM. I saw several newcomers on the stations, most notably Steven K5WTI and Bill K5WPC (ex KG5WSI), and I bet there were others. Brett KG5IQU was seen frequently introducing hams to FT8.



We also did a number of activities in addition to operating. We had our public information table, and Brynn KG5KRV and Logan KG5LLM staffed it, helping the public send their name in Morse. While we did send out a press release thanks to Thornton K5HLC, we did not get a reporter to come this year. Our ever ready Red Cross representative, Steve, WA5FKF put in an appearance, and we even got our FEMA representative, Gerard W5TZX, to take a break for helping with last year's storms in Florida, as the pictures shows. Brett KG5IQU copied the W1AW station broadcast, and Mike KD5MLD got a message to our Section Manager. Of course, Field Day means also coping with unexpected situations, like finding bad pieces of coax, learning that the rotator on the observatory was out of action, readjusting antennas, and finding radios that fail. We also started with not enough radios or computers for all the stations, but once again, club members stepped up to supply missing items.



For those of you who like to compare with past history, it is clear that the declining sunspot numbers are affecting our ability to make contacts. Notice the dramatic drop in 15m contacts over the past three years. However, solar conditions does not explain the significant drop on 80m contacts, which we should consider making more use of in the future, providing we can find enough night owls to staff the stations. We often have empty spots at the rigs during the night.



The food Saturday night was from the Jambalaya Shoppe, and it was McDonald's for Sunday breakfast. Overall, we had fun playing radio, we ate well, we showed off amateur radio to some of the public, and we practiced some of the skills so necessary in an emergency. None of this would happen without all of you who contribute your time and equipment, and I know I have neglected to mention everyone who put in time and effort for this. Thank you.

Dana Browne, AD5VC  
Field Day Chair



Amateur Radio Emergency Services (ARES) is part of the SkyWarn system with our National Weather Service. Over the past two Sunday night nets, we have discussed our role as weather spotters and how to protect ourselves in doing so. We invite you to join the Region 2 ARES Net on Sundays at 8 PM CDT on 146.790 (PL tone 107.2).

– Michael Nolan, KD5MLD  
LA ARES Region 2, ADEC



The Amateur Radio Station at the National Hurricane Center, WX4NHC, is asking for assistance to gather and relay information to the National Hurricane Center (NHC) during a named storm event. **WX4NHC on 14.325 MHz** is a frequency that you should always monitor during a hurricane. More information can be found at <http://www.wx4nhc.org>.

This frequency is maintained for hurricanes by the Hurricane Watch Net <http://www.hwn.org>.

**Are you prepared for disaster?**

**Review the FEMA Emergency Supply List, and make sure that you are prepared.**  
[FEMA Checklist](#)



“The Hurricane Watch Net is a group of licensed Amateur Radio Operators, trained and organized to provide essential communications support to the National Hurricane Center during times of Hurricane emergencies. We are not housed in a single location - as some of our followers believe - but strategically disbursed across North America, throughout the Caribbean Sea, and Central America so that we can provide a continuous path of communications from storm-affected areas to the forecasters in the National Hurricane Center in Miami, and when needed, the forecasters in the Canadian Hurricane Center in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

The primary mission of the Hurricane Watch Net is to disseminate tropical cyclone advisory information to island communities in the Caribbean, Central America, along the Atlantic seaboard of the U.S., and throughout the Gulf of Mexico coastal areas. We also collect observed or measured weather data from amateur radio operators in the storm affected area as well as any post storm damage, and convey that information to the Hurricane Forecasters in the National Hurricane Center via the amateur radio station in the center (**WX4NHC**). In addition, we provide the same service for the Canadian Hurricane Centre whenever a hurricane threatens their country.

The Hurricane Watch Net generally activates whenever a hurricane is within 300 statute miles of expected land-fall. When activated, you will find us on 14.325 MHz by day and 7.268 MHz by night.”

Info from the Hurricane Watch Net Website



Louisiana ARES has released several Emergency Communications Information Updates in preparation for the 2018 Hurricane Season.

Before disaster strikes, follow the link to review the Louisiana Section Emergency Communications Plan:

<http://www.laarri.org/ss/assets/ARES-PLAN/Louisiana-ARES-Emergency-Comm-Plan-6.15.18.pdf>.

Do you know the answers?

1. What is the LA ARES official form of communications that would be used to contact DEC and ECs ( Direct email, LA ARES Google group, Facebook, other)?
2. Does LA ARES have trained and credentialed members assigned to staff the ham station at GOHSEP for a multi-day event?

(See page 30 of the current LA ARES State Emergency Communications Plan.)

3. If an OHSEP had to transmit a WebEOC form to GOHSEP by voice what technique would be used?

(See page 56 and 57 of the current LA ARES State Emergency Communications Plan for details on the WebEOC form.)

## Radio Loan Program



Getting started in ham radio can be overwhelming and expensive. The BRARC Radio Loan Program is a great way for new hams to get on the air quickly, and also provides a try-before-you-buy opportunity. Your first set-up can be an entertaining process that usually involves some crawling, climbing, throwing, and taping. Wear appropriate PPE.

A variety of radios are available for loan to BRARC members for a 90-day period. Visit the club website to view equipment and complete the application. [Link: Radio Loan](#)

The **Icom IC-730** HF Transceiver package includes power supply, microphone, external antenna tuner, and G5RV antenna.

The Icom **IC-2100H** VHF FM Transceiver package includes power supply, microphone, and external magnetic mount 144 MHz mobile antenna.

Also available is a **Yaesu FT-50R** Dual-Band Hand-Held Transceiver with NC-60B charger.

Contact the club at [brarc@brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org) for assistance.





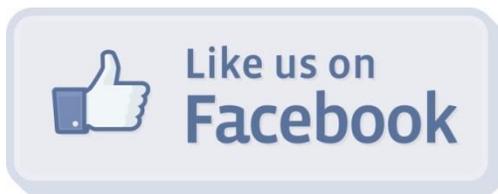
## Future VE Licensing Exam Dates

July 31  
October 30

Main Library – Goodwood Blvd

For more info on BRARC testing procedures go to <http://brarc.org/education/license-exams/>.

For other testing locations go to <http://www.arrl.org/find-an-amateur-radio-license-exam-session>.



<https://www.facebook.com/Baton-Rouge-Amateur-Radio-Club-237428189631038/>



Please submit articles, activities, fun facts, and photos by **August 10** to [brarc@brarc.org](mailto:brarc@brarc.org). The anticipated publication date is August 25.  
73, Jen, K5NMT



**Name Badges and Personalized Mugs** are available from The Sign Man of Baton Rouge.

A link to the order page is available on the Website Home Page and here: <https://thesignman.com/clubs/brarccart.html>

